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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/528,290	03/17/2005	Koichi Iida	052265	4905

38834 7590 11/01/2007
WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP
1250 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NW
SUITE 700
WASHINGTON, DC 20036

EXAMINER

THEIN, MARIA TERESA T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3627

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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11/01/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/528,290

Applicant(s)

IIDA ET AL.

Examiner

Marissa Thein

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3-15-05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement filed March 15, 2007 fails to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97, 1.98 and MPEP § 609 because the copies of the Japanese Foreign Documents were not provided. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered as to the merits. Applicant is advised that the date of any re-submission of any item of information contained in this information disclosure statement or the submission of any missing element(s) will be the date of submission for purposes of determining compliance with the requirements based on the time of filing the statement, including all certification requirements for statements under 37 CFR 1.97(e). See MPEP § 609.05(a).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,937,992 to Benda et al. in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0042735 to Narahara et al.

Regarding claim 1, Benda discloses a system comprising: a part order quantity computing means for computing a part order quantity to be directed to the part supplier

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(col. 5, lines 41-44; col. 6, lines 30-44); first inventory quantity computing means for inputting incoming quantity information and outgoing quantity information of the orderer of the parts and for computing a quantity of inventory of the parts at one of the stages (col. 4, lines 20-39; col. 19, lines 24-40; col. 20, lines 30-53); second inventory quantity computing means for inputting incoming quantity information and the outgoing quantity information of the orderer of the parts and for computing quantities of inventory of the parts at the other stages (col. 4, lines 20-39; col. 19, lines 24-40; col. 20, lines 30-53); inventory information sending means for sending information on the quantity of inventory of the parts at the one of the stages and quantity of inventory of the parts at the other stages via transmitting means (col. 4, lines 28-39; col. 19, lines 41-54; col. 20, lines 20-22; col. 20, lines 30-41); and inventory managing means for consolidating he sent inventory (col. 4, liens 28-39; col. 19, lines 41-54; col. 6, lines 43-50).

However, Benda does not explicitly disclose the inventory managing means outputs the quantity of inventory of the parts computed by the second inventory quantity computing means as the subject to subtraction quantity of inventory in coputing the part order quantity.

Narahara, on the other hand, teaches the inventory managing means outputs the quantity of inventory of the parts computed by the second inventory quantity computing means as the subject to subtraction quantity of inventory in coputing the part order quantity (paragraph 20; paragraph 116).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Benda, to include the inventory

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managing means outputs the quantity of inventory of the parts computed by the second inventory quantity computing means as the subject to subtraction quantity of inventory in computing the part order quantity, as taught by Narahara, in order to enhance the efficiency of production (Narahara, paragraph 96).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent No. 5,712,989 to Johnson et al. discloses a requisition and inventory management system, which employs a host computer and a local computer.

U.S. Patent No. 5,933,354 to Shimada et al. discloses a system for controlling physical distribution pallets, which includes setting up forwarding plan of pallets and to accomplish physical distribution in a smooth manner.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marissa Thein whose telephone number is 571-272-6764. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ryan Zeender can be reached on 571-272-6790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Mtot
October 29, 2007



HANI M. KAZIMI
PRIMARY EXAMINER